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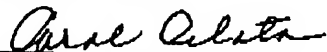
Attorney Docket No. 5052

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

FIRST NAMED INVENTOR:	SERIAL NO:	FILING DATE	ART UNIT:	PAPER NO.
C. Michael Philbrook	10/033,274	December 27, 2001	1615	
TITLE:	Confirmation No.	EXAMINER:		
Controlled Release of Anti-Arrhythmic Agents	8081	Bennett, R. M.		

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

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Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

REPLY

In response to the Office Action mailed from the Patent Office on June 30, 2003 applicants submit the following Reply with Amendment and Remarks, a petition for a three month extension of time, an Information Disclosure Statement with a list of references cited (Form 1449) and copies of references, and authorization for payment of fees associated therewith.

Listing of Claims with Amendment.....Page 2
RemarksPage 7
Information Disclosure StatementPage 8
Petition for Extension of time.....Page 8
Authorization for payment of Fees (with duplicate copy)Page 9
Form 1449 (2 pages)Appendix
References cited (Nos. 1-5).....Appendix

Reply with Amendment and IDS
Philbrook et al.
U.S.S.N. 10/033,274
Confirmation No. 8081
Page 2 / 9

Amendment

Claims 1-42 are pending. Claims 1-17 and 27-42 are withdrawn from examination.
Claim 18 is amended. Claims 18-26 are presented for reconsideration.

Listing of Claims

1. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising a tissue adherent hydrogel comprising an anti-arrhythmic agent for local delivery to a patient in need thereof.
2. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1 wherein the hydrogel is formed by polymerization of biocompatible, biodegradable, synthetic, water soluble and covalently reactive macromers.
3. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1 wherein the anti-arrhythmic agent is selected from the group consisting of sodium channel blockers, beta-adrenergic blockers, repolarization prolonging agents, and calcium channel blockers.
4. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 3 wherein the anti-arrhythmic agent is selected from the group consisting of lidocaine, moricizine, mexiletine, tocainide, procainamide, encainide, flecainide, tocainide, phenytoin, propafenone, quinidine, disopyramide, flecainide, propranolol, esmolol, amiodarone, artilide, bretylium, clofilium, isobutilide, sotalol, azimilide, dofetilide, dronedarone, ersentilide, ibutilide, tedisamil, trecetilide, verapamil, diltiazem, digitalis, adenosine, nickel chloride, and magnesium.
5. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 3 wherein the anti-arrhythmic agent is a repolarization prolonging agent.
6. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 5 wherein the anti-arrhythmic agent is selected from the group consisting of amiodarone, sotalol and dronedarone.
7. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 6 wherein the anti-arrhythmic agent is amiodarone.
8. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1 wherein the anti-arrhythmic agent is present in a dosage which is sufficient to produce a therapeutically effective level of the agent in the cardiac tissue for at least four days after implantation.